(b) if so, the activities undertaken by the Authorities;

(c) whether the Authority has its presence in Goa;

(d) if so, the activities carried on by the Authority in the State; and

(e) the details as regards power and functions of the Authorities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI TASLIMUDDIN): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Coastal Aquaculture Authority (CAA) has been entrusted with the task of regulating the activities connected with coastal aquaculture in the country. Major activities undertaken are regulation and registration of coastal aquaculture farms and fixing standards for all coastal aquaculture inputs such as seed, feed etc. in order to achieve an eco-friendly and sustainable development of coastal aquaculture.

(c) The Authority is at present functioning with its headquarters at Chennai. The States level and District level Committees have been set up in all the coastal States including Goa in accordance with the provisions of Coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005 for carrying out the various activities enumerated in the Act.

(d) The shrimp farms in the state are being registered by the Coastal Aquaculture Authority as per the recommendations of the District level and State level Committees of the State Government.

(e) Details regarding powers and functions of the Authority are listed in the coastal Aquaculture Authority Act, 2005 and the Rules framed thereunder. The prominent functions are:

(i) to make regulations for the construction and operation of aquaculture farms within the coastal areas;

(ii) to inspect coastal aquaculture farms with a view to ascertaining their environmental impact caused by coastal aquaculture;

(iii) to register coastal aquaculture farms;

(iv) to ensure compliance of the regulations etc.

Decline in the price of wheat in the International market

†21. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the prices of wheat in the international market have fallen in the year 2008 in comparison to previous years;

(b) if so, the minimum and maximum price of wheat in respect of sale and purchase during each month from September to December 2008, month-wise; and

(c) to what extent in terms of percentage this price has decreased or increased as compared to the corresponding months of the year 2007 and 2006?

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) International prices fluctuate depending upon the demand and supply situation of a commodity, International prices of wheat during September, 2008 were in the range of US $ 308 to US $ 222 per tonne, depending on varieties. The comparative prices for September, 2006 and September, 2007 as well as percentage variations are given below:

International prices of wheat

(US $ per tonne)

	September 2006	September 2007	September 2008	% Change (September 08/Sept. 06)	% Change (September 08/Sept. 07)
US No. 2 Hard Red winter-Ord.	208	342	308	48.08	-9-94
US Soft Red winter No. 2	165	323	222	34.55	-31.27

Source: International Grain Council and USDA.

Kharif crops sown during 2008

†22. SHRI SHIVANAND TIWARI:
SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that certain products have been sown in larger area and certain products have been sown in smaller area under the kharif crop of 2008 as compared to last years;

(b) if so, the names of such products which have been sown in larger area;

(c) the names of such products which have been sown in comparatively smaller area and estimated production thereof; and

(d) the expected total production of kharif crop during 2008?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTILAL BHURIA): (a) to (c) The area sown during Kharif 2008 till 10th October compared to corresponding period during Kharif 2007 is higher in Rice by 10.67 lakh hectares and Oilseeds by 6.34 lakh hectares, while it is smaller in Coarse Cereals by 13.54 lakh hectares, Sugarcane by 8.80 lakh hectares, and Pulses by 19.10 lakh hectares.

(d) The expected production during Kharif 2008 as per 1st Advance Estimates is 83.25 million tons in Rice, 27.36 million tone in Coarse Cereals, 294.65 million tone in Sugarcane, 4.72 million tons in Pulses, 17.95 million tons in Oilseeds, 23.91 million bales in Cotton and 10.31 million bales in Jute.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.